

REMARKS

Claim 21 is amended. Claim 28 is canceled, with Applicants retaining the right to file a divisional patent application thereon. Reconsideration of the remaining claims is requested.


Applicants note with appreciation the allowability of claims 1-20.

Claims 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kösslinger et al. Claim 31 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kösslinger et al. Claims 23-30 and 32 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

Applicants have amended independent claim 21 to include the limitation of claim 28 which was objected to by the Examiner as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claim 28 has been canceled. Therefore, it is respectfully asserted that independent claim 21, as amended, is in a condition for allowance and all claims that depend thereon (i.e., claims 22-27 and 29-32).

Applicants believe that all of the claims pending in this patent application are allowable and that all other issues raised by the Examiner have been rectified. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider the rejections and to grant an early allowance. If any questions or issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan D. Kirsch
Attorney for Applicants
PTO Registration No. 33,720
P.O. Box 1625
Idaho Falls, ID 83415-3899
(208) 526-1371
(208) 526-8339 FAX

Date: 4/13/05